

Message Text

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ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W

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FM AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1434

C O N F I D E N T I A L CONAKRY 2274

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR US HU AO UR AG GV ML DM

SUBJECT: US PROTEST OVER USE OF CERTAIN COUNTRIES AS STAGING

POINTS FOR SOVIET/CUBAN AIRLIFT TO ANGOLA

REF: A) STATE 300227

1. CHARGE SEEKING APPOINTMENT TODAY (DECEMBER 22) TO DELIVER US PROTEST TO MOROU BALDE, SECRETARY GENERAL FOREIGN MINISTRY. HAVE BEEN INFORMED THAT BALDE AND MOST FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS UNAVAILABLE TODAY, SINCE GOG LED BY PRESIDENT TOURE HIMSELF, IS GREETING RETURNING GUINEAN FOOTBALL TEAM THAT JUST WON AFRICAN CHAMPIONSHIP. IF UNABLE DELIVER TODAY, CHARGE HAS FIRM APPOINTMENT DECEMBER 23 AT 10:00 A.M.

2. DURING SEVERAL RECENT CONVERSATIONS WITH GUINEAN OFFICIALS AT SOCIAL OCCASIONS (PRIOR TO RECEIPT OF REFTEL), EMBASSY OFFICERS HAVE HAD FRANK DISCUSSIONS REGARDING ANGOLA, ESPECIALLY SOVIET INTERVENTION. ASTOUNDINGLY, THESE OFFICIALS FLATLY DENY THAT SOVIETS ARE STAGING THROUGH CONAKRY. THIS MAY BE OFFICIAL UCMLLINE, BUT ENTIRE DIPLOMATIC CORPS AND UNDOUBTEDLY MANY GUINEAN OFFICIALS AS WELL WERE ABLE TO SEE SOVIET PLANES AT CONAKRY AIRPORT DURING AIRLIFT. HOWEVER, THERE ARE NO PLANES VISIBLE NOW; LAST SOVIET FLIGHT THROUGH CONAKRY WAS DEC 12.

3. GOG IS GIVING MAXIMUM PLAY IN ITS PROPAGANDA BROADCASTS TO REPORTED US DOMESTIC OPPOSITION TO "US INTERVENTION" IN AFRICA. (SEE CONAKRY 2271). IN ONE OF CONVERSATIONS

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MENTIONED ABOVE, SECRETARY GENERAL OF STATE COMMITTEE TOLD

EMBOFF THAT PRESIDENT TOURE WAS PERSONALLY GRATIFIED BY ACTION OF US SENATE AND BY APPARENTLY MOUNTING OPPOSITION IN AMERICAN PRESS TO US POLICY. GUINEAN SOURCE CLAIMS TO HAVE THIS INFORMATION FROM PERSONAL CONVERSATION WITH PRESIDENT.

4. EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT WHILE GOG MAY BE SENSITIVE TO CHARGE OF GUINEAN-SOVIET COLLUSION (AS EVIDENCED BY INCREDIBLE REFUSAL OF GOG OFFICIALS TO ADMIT A FACT THAT IS EVIDENT TO ALL) EFFECT OF US PROTEST WILL BE SERIOUSLY BLUNTED BY (A) REPORTS OF DOMESTIC OPPOSITION TO US POLICY AND (B) BY FACT THAT AIRLIFT NO LONGER IN PROGRESS.

5. EMBASSY REPEATS RECOMMENDATION IN CONAKRY 2232, PARA 4 THAT IF OPPORTUNITY ARISES, DEPT. RAISE SUBJECT OF SOVIET INTERVENTION WITH PRIMIN BEAVOGUI DURING LATTER'S VISIT TO WASHINGTON.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY ASSISTANCE, INTERVENTION, POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, DIPLOMATIC PROTESTS, MILITARY AIRLIFTS, FLIGHT CLEARANCES, CAT-B
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 DEC 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: greenet
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975CONAKR02274
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: P850106-2576
From: CONAKRY
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751220/aaaaarbp.tel
Line Count: 77
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NODS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Reference: 75 STATE 300227
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: greenet
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 AUG 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <26 AUG 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <11 DEC 2003 by greenet>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: US PROTEST OVER USE OF CERTIAN COUNTRIES AS STAGING POINTS FOR SOVIET/CUBAN AIRLIFT TO ANGOLA
TAGS: PEPR, PFOR, GV, ML, CU, US, HU, AO, UR, AG, DM
To: STATE STAT
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006